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DECLASSIFIED

AM-COUP

BY LIONEL WALSH

PARIS, SEPT 21 REUTER - EMPEROR BOKASSA WAS DEPOSED IN AN OVERNIGHT COUP IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE WHICH TODAY SPARKED WILD CELEBRATIONS THERE AT THE FALL OF A HATED TYRANT ACCUSED OF KILLING CHILDREN.

WITHIN HOURS OF THE BLOODLESS TAKEOVER BY PRESIDENT DAVID DACKO AND THE PROCLAMATION OF A REPUBLIC, TWO COMPANIES OF FRENCH TROOPS FLEW IN TO THE CAPITAL, BANGUI, TO PRESERVE ORDER AT THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST.

JEAN BEDEL BOKASSA, 58, WAS DENOUNCED BY THE NEW PRESIDENT AS A DERANGED DESPOT WHO BROUGHT SHAME AND RIDICULE UPON A COUNTRY UTTERLY RUINED BY HIS DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR.

LOOTING OF SHOPS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS WAS REPORTED WHILE REVELLERS DANCED AND SANG IN AN EXPLOSION OF UNCONTROLLED JOY IN THE STREETS OF BANGUI.

THE FORMER NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN THE FRENCH ARMY, WHO CROWNED HIMSELF EMPEROR IN A NAPOLEONIC-STYLE CEREMONY IN 1977, WAS IN LIBYA WHEN MR DACKO MOVED AGAINST HIM.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Aues DATE 10/25/82

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. ______ REASON(S) ______
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